



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 25, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 16 totaled an estimated 17.1 billion ton-miles, 11.3 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 7 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 116 billion ton-miles, 11.3 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended February 16 totaled 443,703 cars, 8.9 percent above 1979, and 2.4 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 6.5 percent in the East, 5.4 percent in the South, and 12.8 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 12 of the 21 commodity groups showed increases, led by coal loadings, up 24,734 cars, or 32.6 percent, and grain traffic, which increased by 10,147 cars, or 50.0 percent. Eighteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended February 9 totaled 34,243 cars, up 1.1 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 65,200 trailers and/or containers, 3.5 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 6 weeks of the year was 194,770 cars, 4.4 percent higher than last year, and 350,815 trailers and/or containers, up 7.3 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 2/16/80.

	Loadings in Week ended February 16, 1980		Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	30,442	I	10,147	50.0	D	1,929	6.0
Other farm products	4,734	I	1,019	27.4	D	7	0.1
Metallic ores	22,056	D	1,045	4.5	D	3,209	12.7
Coal	100,533	I	24,734	32.6	I	5,685	6.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,461	D	349	2.7	I	376	3.1
Nonmetallic minerals	14,072	I	1,620	13.0	I	1,383	10.9
Grain mill products	18,924	I	1,313	7.5	I	26	0.1
Food and kindred products	19,560	I	1,176	6.4	I	520	2.7
Primary forest products	20,611	D	568	2.7	I	344	1.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	11,007	I	274	2.6	I	616	5.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	21,780	I	1,483	7.3	I	350	1.6
Chemicals and allied products	29,417	I	29	0.1	I	979	3.4
Petroleum products	6,959	D	265	3.7	I	147	2.2
Stone, clay and glass products	15,458	D	429	2.7	I	667	4.5
Coke	6,549	D	517	7.3	I	622	10.5
Metals and products	17,888	I	835	4.9	I	589	3.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,020	D	4,257	17.5	I	1,123	5.9
Waste and scrap materials	14,322	I	847	6.3	I	883	6.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	11,601	D	375	3.1	I	119	1.0
All other carloads	45,053	I	978	2.2	I	1,041	2.4
LCL traffic	256	D	228	47.1	I	32	14.3
Total Cars Loaded	443,703	I	36,422	8.9	I	10,357	2.4
Corresponding week of 1979	407,281						

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Change</u>
Total Cars Loaded (7 weeks)	3,011,896	2,783,401	I	8.2
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
6 weeks cumulative	99.3	89.2	I	11.3
Week ended February 16	<u>17.1</u>	<u>15.4</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>11.3</u>
7 weeks cumulative	116.4	104.6	I	11.3